

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	300590
<015>	Study Area Name	BENTON RIDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Megan M. Schulte
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	4198791107 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
Form Type		54.313 and 54.422

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

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<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? No

[illegible]

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

<010>	Study Area Code	300590
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Megan M. Schulte
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4198791107 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
300590ohSvcQualConsProt510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	300590ohEmergFunc610.pdf

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-- See attached worksheet --

**(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Benton Ridge Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Benton Ridge Telephone Company

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

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<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

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<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

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<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

300590ohLifelineTerms1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> | Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> | Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> | Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

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Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

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Required Information

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

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Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
Yes - Attach Certification			
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	300590ohCertPubIntOb3010.pdf
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:			
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input type="checkbox"/>
If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	300590ohFinStmts3026.pdf

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)**

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

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4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

**Certification - Reporting Carrier
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: BENTON RIDGE TEL CO	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/26/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer: Martin Ellerbrock	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Vice President	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 4198592144 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 300590	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

**Certification - Agent / Carrier
Data Collection Form**

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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<020>	Program Year	2018
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mschulte@bright.net
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<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
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[illegible]

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<810>	Reporting Carrier	Benton Ridge Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Benton Ridge Telephone Company

[illegible]

Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Compliance

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Service Quality Standards

For voice services, the Company:

- Provides voice grade access to the public switched network.
- Provides flat-rated local exchange service with no additional charge to end users.
- Provides access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911.
- Provides toll blocking and toll limitation services.

For voice and broadband services, the Company:

- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and/or on its website.
- Maintains a business office providing customers with access to a customer service representative either in person or via a local telephone call or toll-free telephone number during business hours.
- Directs after-hours calls to the Company's help desk.
- Directs trouble reports to the on-call technician.
- Tracks all service orders to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Measures its service connection and service interruption performance on a regular basis.
- Trains employees to:
 - Answer all incoming calls promptly.
 - Respond to all inquiries for information promptly and courteously.
 - Investigate thoroughly all customer complaints and handle appropriately according to the Company's guidelines for resolution of customer complaints.
 - Be knowledgeable about products and service offerings so they can assist the customer with selecting the best service option.
- Has a process for periodic inspection, testing and preventive maintenance of its equipment to permit the rendering of safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.
- Meets or exceeds the standards established by the state commission and provides any reports required in accordance with the state commission's rules.

Consumer Protection Rules

The Company has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules which include compliance with the Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules. The operating procedures include:

- Appointment of a compliance officer.
- A manual detailing the specific procedures for protecting consumer information.
- Employee training on an annual basis.
- A disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information.

If complaints are filed with the Company regarding consumer protection rules, the complaint is immediately investigated, the matter tracked and any corrective action noted. This process ensures that problems are addressed and corrections made.

The Company's CPNI extends to all broadband customers, where appropriate.

Functionality in Emergency Situations

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Benton Ridge Telephone Company (“the Company”) has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations.

The Company has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source. Battery systems at the switching and remote offices will provide forty-eight hours of back-up power. In addition, fixed propane generators will recharge the battery systems indefinitely. The rural nodes have eight-hour battery back-up, and three portable gasoline generators are used to recharge the nodes’ batteries. Customers with fiber-to-the-home service also have batteries installed in their homes, which provide twenty-four-hour back-up.

Interexchange traffic is carried on a fiber ring. Traffic is automatically rerouted around damaged facilities.

The Company serves less than 3,000 voice and internet customers, and there is adequate switching and transport capacity to allow the Company to manage traffic spikes due to emergency situations.

Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Benton Ridge Telephone Company (“Benton Ridge”) offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers for one telephone or one qualified broadband internet service per eligible household. The Lifeline program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone or qualified broadband internet service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Toll blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents, or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying Federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year’s statement of benefits from a qualifying state or Federal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state or Federal program; program participation documents (for example, a benefit card); or another official document evidencing the consumer’s participation in a qualifying state or Federal program.

Income Based Eligibility

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines.

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year’s state or Federal tax return; current income statement from an employer or Form W-2; three consecutive months of the most current pay stubs; the most recent Social Security statement of

benefits; the most recent Veterans Administration statement of benefits; the most recent retirement/pension statement of benefits; the most recent unemployment or worker compensation statement of benefits; or any other legal document that would show current income (such as a divorce decree or child support document).

Numbers of Minutes-of-Use Provided as Part of Lifeline Program Service

Benton Ridge's voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Benton Ridge's voice Lifeline plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

Qualified Broadband Internet Provided as Part of Lifeline Program Service

Broadband internet service qualifies for the Lifeline discount if the purchased speed is at least 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload. Benton Ridge's broadband internet service has no limit on the Gbps per month of data which may be downloaded at no additional charge.

Rates

Subscribers may receive the Lifeline discount on any type or grade of telephone local service or qualifying broadband internet service, including bundled services that are normally offered by Benton Ridge. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline program.

Additional Lifeline Program Information

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either fixed or mobile service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

Certification of Public Interest Obligations

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier. I hereby certify that Benton Ridge Telephone Company has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

Signature

06/21/2017

Date

Megan M. Schulte

Name

Corporate Secretary

Title

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(3005a) Operating Report for Privately-Held Rate of Return Carriers		FCC Form 481	
Balance Sheet - Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986	
Page 1 of 3		July 2013	
<010> Study Area Code		<010>	
<015> Study Area Name		<015>	BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY 300590
<020> Program Year		<020>	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data		<030>	Megan M. Schulte
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>		<035>	419-879-1107
<039> Contact Telephone Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>		<039>	mschulte@watchtv.net
<input type="checkbox"/> Files as reviewed single company		<input type="checkbox"/> Filed as audited single company	
<input type="checkbox"/> Filed as reviewed consolidated company		<input type="checkbox"/> Filed as audited consolidated company	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filed as subsidiary of reviewed consolidated company		<input type="checkbox"/> Filed as subsidiary of audited consolidated company	

CERTIFICATION			
We hereby certify that the entries in this report are in accordance with the accounts and other records of the system and reflect the status of the system to the best of our knowledge and belief.			
/s/Megan M. Schulte		6/26/2017	
Signature		Date	

PART A. BALANCE SHEET					
ASSETS		BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
				BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD
CURRENT ASSETS					
1.	Cash and Equivalents			CURRENT LIABILITIES	
2.	Cash-RUS Construction Fund			25.	Accounts Payable
3.	Affiliates:			26.	Notes Payable
a.	Telecom, Accounts Receivable			27.	Advance Billings and Payments
b.	Other Accounts Receivable			28.	Customer Deposits
c.	Notes Receivable			29.	Current Mat. L/T Debt
4.	Non-Affiliates:			30.	Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev.
a.	Telecom, Accounts Receivable			31.	Current Mat.-Capital Leases
b.	Other Accounts Receivable			32.	Income Taxes Accrued
c.	Notes Receivable			33.	Other Taxes Accrued
5.	Interest and Dividends Receivable			34.	Other Current Liabilities
6.	Material-Regulated			35.	Total Current Liabilities (25 thru 34)
7.	Material-Nonregulated			LONG-TERM DEBT	
8.	Prepayments			36.	Funded Debt-RUS Notes
9.	Other Current Assets			37.	Funded Debt-RTB Notes
10.	Total Current Assets (1 Thru 9)			38.	Funded Debt-PFB Notes
				39.	Funded Debt-Other
NONCURRENT ASSETS					
11.	Investment in Affiliated Companies			40.	Funded Debt-Rural Develop. Loan
a.	Rural Development			41.	Premium (Discount) on L/T Debt
b.	Nonrural Development			42.	Reacquired Debt
12.	Other Investments			43.	Obligations Under Capital Lease
a.	Rural Development			44.	Adv. From Affiliated Companies
b.	Nonrural Development			45.	Other Long-Term Debt
13.	Nonregulated Investments			46.	Total Long-Term Debt (36 thru 45)
14.	Other Noncurrent Assets			OTHER LIAB. & DEF. CREDITS	
15.	Deferred Charges			47.	Other Long-Term Liabilities
16.	Jurisdictional Differences			48.	Other Deferred Credits
17.	Total Noncurrent Assets (11 thru 16)			49.	Other Jurisdictional Differences
				50.	Total Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits (47 thru 49)
EQUITY					
PLANT, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT					
18.	Telecom, Plant-in-Service			51.	Cap. Stock Outstanding & Subscribed
19.	Property Held for Future Use			52.	Additional Paid-in-Capital
20.	Plant Under Construction			53.	Treasury Stock
21.	Plant Adj., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill			54.	Membership and Cap. Certificates
22.	Less Accumulated Depreciation			55.	Other Capital
23.	Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)			56.	Patronage Capital Credits
				57.	Retained Earnings or Margins
24.	TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23)			58.	Total Equity (51 thru 57)
				59.	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (35+46+50+58)

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(3005b) Operating Report for Privately-Held Rate of Return Carriers
Balance Sheet - Data Collection Form
Page 2 of 3

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code
<015> Study Area Name
<020> Program Year
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>
<039> Contact Telephone Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>

<010> 300590
<015> BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
<020> 2018
<030> Megan M. Schulte
<035> 419-879-1107
<039> mschulte@watchtv.net

PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS			
ITEM	PRIOR YEAR	THIS YEAR	
1. Local Network Services Revenues			
2. Network Access Services Revenues			
3. Long Distance Network Services Revenues			
4. Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues			
5. Miscellaneous Revenues			
6. Uncollectible Revenues			
7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6)			
8. Plant Specific Operations Expense			
9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization)			
10. Depreciation Expense			
11. Amortization Expense			
12. Customer Operations Expense			
13. Corporate Operations Expense			
14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13)			
15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14)			
16. Other Operating Income and Expenses			
17. State and Local Taxes			
18. Federal Income Taxes			
19. Other Taxes			
20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19)			
21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20)			
22. Interest on Funded Debt			
23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases			
24. Other Interest Expense			
25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction			
26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25)			
27. Nonoperating Net Income			
28. Extraordinary Items			
29. Jurisdictional Differences			
30. Nonregulated Net Income			
31. Total Net Income or margins (21+27+28+29+30-26)			
32. Total Taxes Based on Income			
33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year			
34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date			
35. Dividends Declared (Common)			
36. Dividends Declared (Preferred)			
37. Other Debits Year-to-Date			
38. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
39. Retained Earnings or Margins end-of-Period [(31+33+34)-(35+36+37+38)]			
40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year			
41. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
42. Patronage Capital Credits Retired			
43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)			
44. Annual Debt Service Payments			
45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11)/7]			
46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26)/7]			
47. TIER [(31+26)/26]			
48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11)/44]			

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(3005c) Operating Report for Privately-Held Rate of Return Carriers
 Balance Sheet - Data Collection Form
 Page 3 of 3

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986
 July 2013

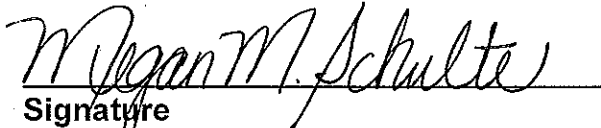
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 <015> Study Area Name
 <020> Program Year
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data
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<010> 300590
 <015> BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY
 <020> 2018
 <030> Megan M. Schulte
 <035> 419-879-1107
 <039> mschulte@watchtv.net

PART C. STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS		
1.	Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund)	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
2.	Net Income	
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
3.	Add: Depreciation	
4.	Add: Amortization	
5.	Other (Explain) Non-Reg Depr, Non-Reg loss on Equip, Deferred Taxes, Donation of Building	
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities		
6.	Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	
7.	Decrease/(Increase) in Materials and Inventory	
8.	Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments and Deferred Charges	
9.	Decrease/(Increase) in Other Current Assets	
10.	Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	
11.	Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments	
12.	Increase/(Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities	
13.	Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operations	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
14.	Decrease/(Increase) in Notes Receivable	
15.	Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Payable	
16.	Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits	
17.	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Debt (Including Current Maturities)	
18.	Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities & Deferred Credits	
19.	Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-in Capital, Membership and Capital Certificates & Other Capital	
20.	Less: Payment of Dividends	
21.	Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired	
22.	Other (Explain) Intercompany Financing	
23.	Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
24.	Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment)	
25.	Other Long-Term Investments	
26.	Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences	
27.	Other (Explain)	
28.	Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities	
29.	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	
30.	Ending Cash	

Officer Certification of Financial Statements
BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier. I hereby certify that Benton Ridge Telephone Company was not separately audited in the ordinary course of business in the preceding fiscal year, and the attached financial information is in accordance with the accounts and other records of our system, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information reported is accurate. I also certify that the underlying information has been subjected to review by an independent certified public accountant.


Signature

6/26/2017

Date

Megan M. Schulte
Name

Corporate Secretary
Title